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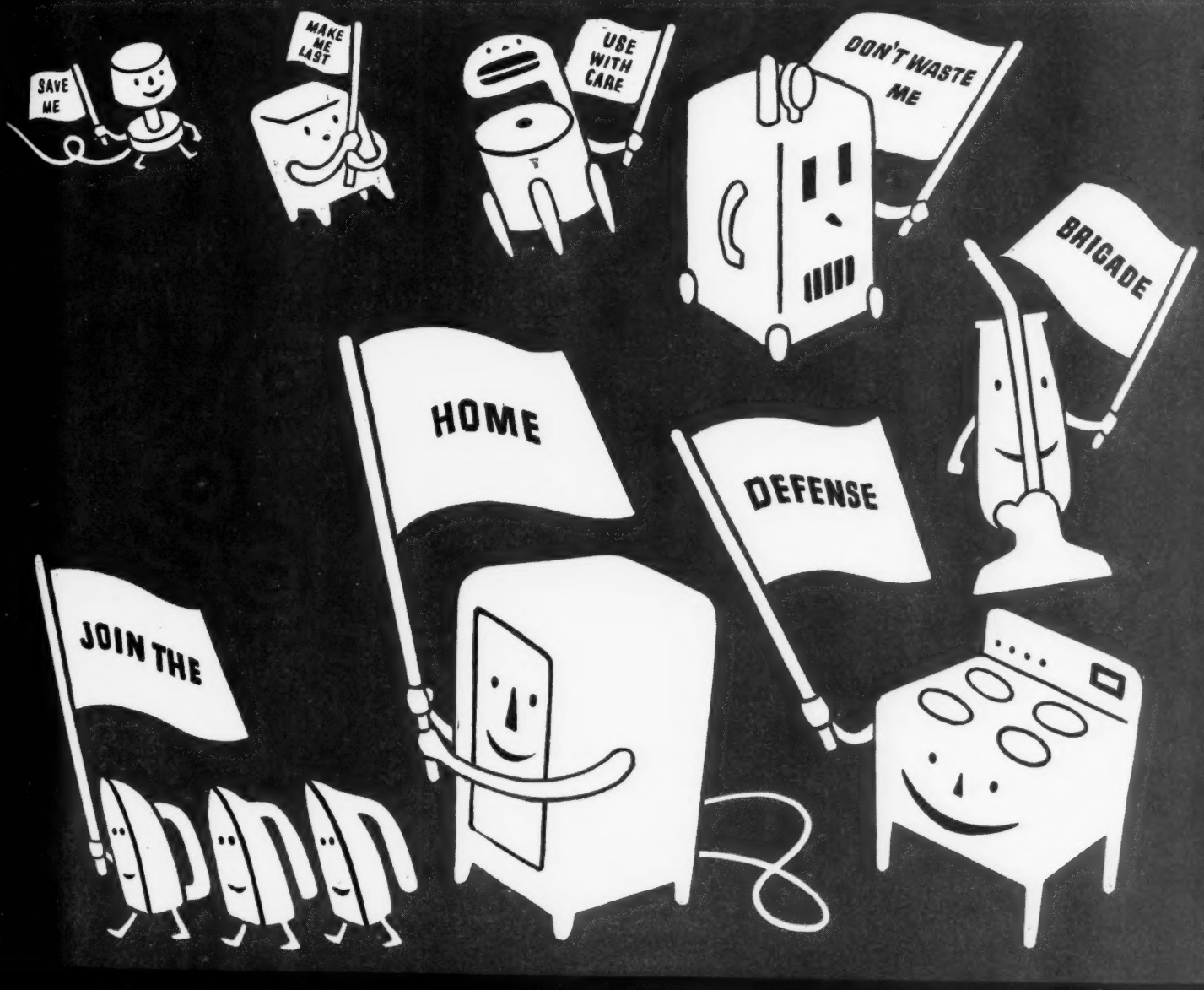
CONSUMERS' GUIDE



You are a captain, too, —in your home

THIS ISSUE of CONSUMERS' GUIDE is a collection of little things you can do to make your family and our Nation stronger in war.

Here are suggestions on how you can make the household goods you now have—and the ones you are fortunate enough to acquire—wear better, last longer, and give extra service.

War makes saving necessary all the way down the line. You'll have to save, too, not just to make your money go farther, but because a Nation at war needs the things you need, and war needs come first.

Manpower and metals, machinery and motive power that ordinarily go into making thousands of goods you live by, now go into war materials. Not all of them, but great and increasing quantities.

War needs many things. But top on the list of materials used in making household goods, too, are such things as aluminum, steel, cork, copper, rubber, refrigerators, lead, paper, plastics, electric power.

A nation at war cannot wait on voluntary action to accumulate all the materials it needs for its fighting men and for people at home.

In Washington, Government agencies are determining how much of thousands of different materials will be needed for war. Then they determine how much of everything produced and imported shall go to civilians.

When supplies aren't big enough to fill war needs plus civilian needs, then the materials used in making civilian goods must be cut down. Already orders have gone out to cut down the manufacture of mechanical washing machines and ironers. Fewer mechanical refrigerators will be made, too.

The big question, when goods for consumers must be reduced, is not only *how much*—but *how*—they shall be reduced. In peacetime, we can afford the luxury of hundreds of different models of washing machines—a newspaper discovered there were 134 different kinds sold in Milwaukee 3 years ago—and refrigerators, and vacuum cleaners. This kind of extravagance goes out when war comes in. Wasteful duplication must stop. Simplification must come in.

When Government decides which models and brands and kinds of goods shall be made for civilians, it has to choose, for example, between types which will give a few consumers luxury as well as use, and types which will give many consumers as much as possible. Sometimes the choice is simple, sometimes it is difficult.

These are decisions that Government must make. But you have a job to do, too. Each extra day of life you give your household goods helps the Nation, as well as you. Each new habit of care you practice helps factories to work for war. Each person with whom you share your goods lightens the load that industry must carry to supply the goods that are needed for war.

Each extra day of life you give your household goods is a day earned for the war effort. Each new habit of care you practice helps to shorten the war. Each person with whom you share your goods makes less immediate demand on the factories and men and materials the whole Nation needs to fight the war.

Some of the tips we suggest should help to lengthen the life of your possessions. Some should help you get better use out of them. Some tell you how to save on power and fuel that are needed for war. Some will give you greater enjoyment, which is often as important as just getting work out of things.

As you read these pages you will see that we do not know all the tricks to make what you have work for the Nation as well as for you. There is room enough only for the more important and easily used rules, which our Department of Agriculture experts have helped us round up.

You may have still better ideas. If you do, won't you share them with us? We would like to pass them along to our other readers.

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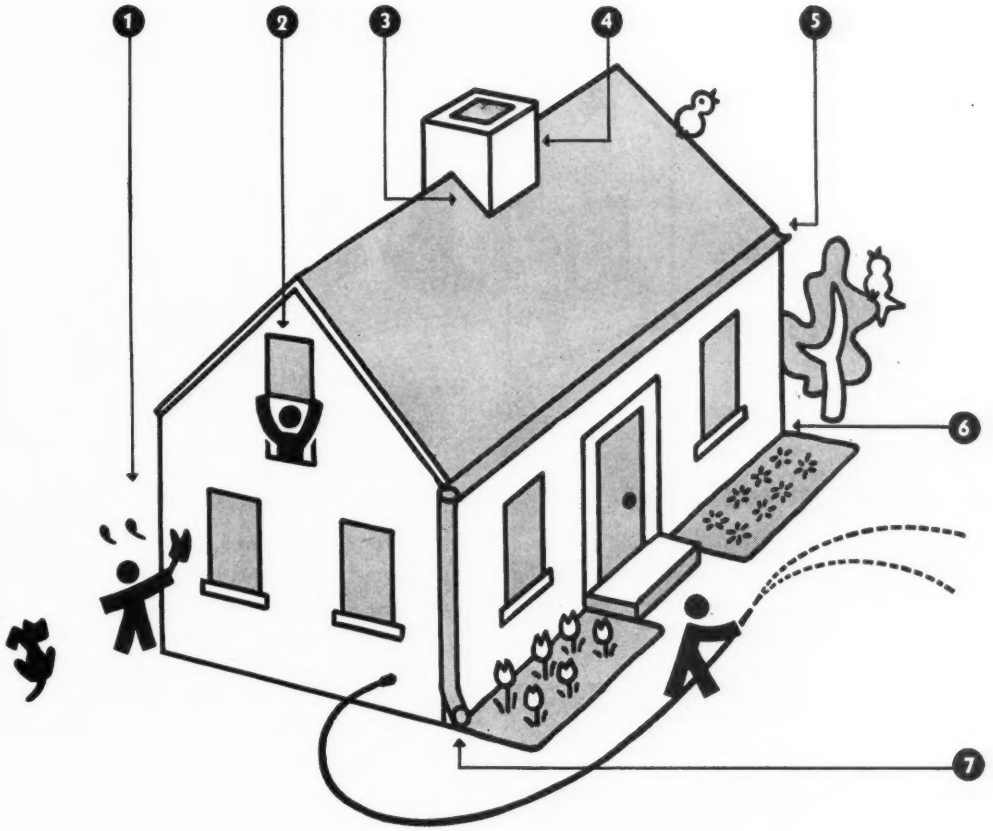
Longer life to your house



House Repair

1. Keep house painted to protect wood from weathering and rot. Paint in dry weather when temperature is above freezing. Inside painting can be done at any time.

2. Paint galvanized screens once a year with thin paint. Copper screening never needs painting except to prevent stains.

3. Replace loose shingles as soon as they appear. The roof will last longer and leaks won't damage inside of house. When metal roofing deteriorates and is full of small holes, it can be made weatherproof by a thick bituminous asbestos coating. Leaks on ceilings near chimney can probably be traced to loose or defective flashing, loose mortar joints, or dislodged coping. Leaks may also come from broken shingles, defective flashing around dormers, vent pipes, and in valleys where water runs down.

4. Keep stonework and brickwork pointed up, especially around chimneys.

5. Copper flashing around pipes, dormer windows, and edges of roof never needs painting. Galvanized flashing should be examined frequently and kept covered with paint.

6. Don't let leaves and dirt pile up around exposed wood at the foundation level.

7. Keep gutters and down spouts cleaned out and painted so they wear longer and won't rust.

8. Keep tiles on walls and floors tightly set.

9. Repair cracks in plaster.

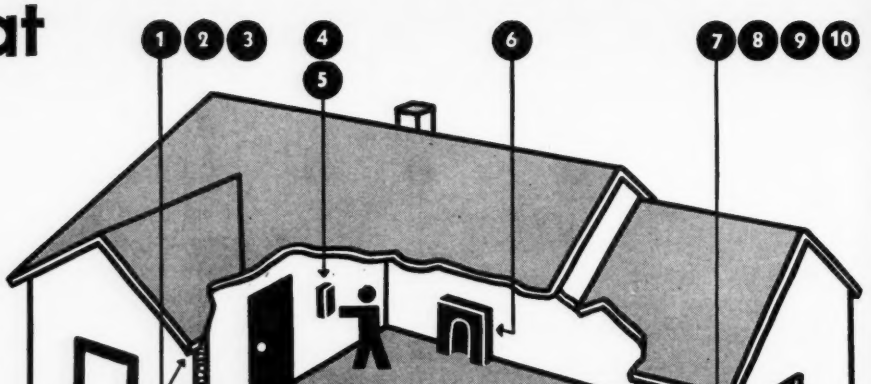
10. Dampness in cement floors often comes up through cracks. A good way to stop cracks is to chisel them out so they're a quarter or half an inch wide; then fill well with hot tar. If dampness still comes through, try coating the floor with a special preparation. You can find out how in "Use of Concrete on the Farm," by writing to the Department of Agriculture for this bulletin.

11. Leaks in soapstone, slate, or cement laundry floors can be stopped with a specially prepared commercial cement. The crack should be cleaned out well before cement is applied, and cement should be worked in well.

12. Keep all metal work inside and outside of your house well painted to prevent wear from rust and corrosion. Hinges are a small item you might forget.

13. When not in use, garden hose should be carefully drained of water, coiled so that there are no kinks or bends, and stored off the ground, preferably indoors, so that it will dry out free of dirt and grit.

Save on heat



General Heating Rules *(This is what the numbers above mean).*

1. Get your house in order. Insulate your walls, roof, and floors with 4 inches of rock wool, or the equivalent of sheet type insulating material.

2. Use storm doors and sashes to save a good sized portion of fuel each year.

3. Weather strip windows and doors. Felt weather stripping is better than none at all.

4. Be sure thermometer or thermostat is on inside wall, away from drafts of outdoor air, fireplaces, or radiators. Thermostats installed on coal furnaces to adjust draft doors and dampers ordinarily regulate temperature precisely and often cut fuel consumption.

5. Keep temperatures at 65° when people are active, 70° when the family is sitting down, and 50° to 60° when the family is in bed, for most economical use of fuel.

6. Close the damper in the chimney of your fireplace when there is no fire.

7. Reflecting shields behind radiators throw heat out into room instead of into walls.

8. Have your serviceman approve radiator covers if you use them.

9. Turn off the radiators in unused rooms and close the doors.

10. When radiators are turned on don't waste heat by careless opening of windows and doors.

11. Don't block hot-air ducts with pieces of furniture.

Furnaces Need Care

1. Keep your furnace, flues, and chimney clean. Dirt and soot cut down the heat conductivity and hamper draft. Cleaning once a year is usually enough, but if you burn very sooty coal your serviceman may tell you to clean your heating system twice a season.

2. Have a serviceman check all air leaks in firebox and pipes and where furnace meets cellar floor.

3. When the spigot at the fire lining of your furnace boiler runs muddy water, flush the boiler. If sediment is allowed to collect on a level with the fire line of your furnace the boiler will overheat and rust.

4. If smokestack temperature is much over 600° F. when you have your fire burning as high as possible, you can be sure you are wasting fuel. 400° is the smokestack temperature to aim at.

Oil Burners

1. Have a serviceman check your oil burner's efficiency. With the fuel thermometer and gas analyzer he can tell how efficient your burner is. If he finds incomplete combustion he can stop leaks and adjust air flow to make better burning and considerably less use of fuel.

2. Consult your oil burner serviceman about reducing your oil burner's firing rate. Speed of heating will be cut slightly but so will fuel bills.

Coal Furnaces

1. Getting a coal furnace to produce the temperature you want at a given time is the way to use it most economically. A draft of air from below a fire makes it burn more intensely, a draft of air above the fire slows down burning and cools off the fire. Learning to adjust the draft doors and dampers in a furnace, therefore, means learning to heat your house to the temperature you want from hour to hour.

2. When you want a hot fire, as you do in the morning, increase draft from below the fire by opening the ashpit draft door and closing the check damper. Make a clean flame by opening the fire door damper as far as necessary.

3. For a cool slow-burning fire at night close the ashpit draft door and open the check damper and fire-door damper. Fires can't be regulated from hot to cold "just like that" by opening and shutting dampers and doors. Experience alone tells a furnace owner how delicately his particular furnace must be regulated. The adjustment should be much finer than most people think.

4. A layer of ashes on the grate under the fire bed slows up burning. The hotter the fire you want, the thinner the layer of ashes you leave. Never shake all the ashes down before you start up a fire or bank it at night, and by all means never shake out unburned coal. Vary the ash bed from 2 to 6 inches depending both on how cold it is outdoors and how hot you want it inside.

5. When you fire your furnace always leave a section of glowing coal on top beside the new coal. It will ignite the gases coming off the new green coal, make more complete burning and more heat in the furnace.

6. Adjust smoke pipe damper for your draft requirements and never change it. Daily regulation of draft is made by fire door and check dampers and ashpit draft door.

7. Never put ashes on top of fire. While they slow up burning, they also cut down the draft when you want to build up your fire to make it burn fast.

8. Keep ashpit cleaned out. Ashes hamper air flow, and heaped-up ashes keep grate from cooling evenly, make it warp so fire burns wastefully.

Hot-Water Heaters

1. Heating surfaces of hot-water heaters should be kept free of rust and soot because they block the transfer of heat through the boiler or heating coil to the water.

2. Never overheat your water. It may rust the tank and it wastes fuel. When you have a thermostatically controlled heater, set it at 120° F. to 130° F., and see if the water isn't hot enough for your purpose.

3. Insulate your water tank and pipes between the heating unit and the tank to conserve fuel.

4. Keep your hot-water tank clean so heating is not affected by sediment and silt. Flush tank whenever water runs muddy.

5. Turn off pilot for automatic gas heaters when you go away for as long as a week.

Oil Burning Space Heaters

1. Manufacturer's instructions are often helpful in getting most efficient use from an oil heater.

2. Depending upon the type of oil heater you have, the burner parts should be cleaned as often as once a week or as infrequently as 2 or 3 times a year. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

3. Oil heaters of this type should burn water-white kerosene or so-called range oil, not heavy fuel oil which will cause a dirty fire and consume more fuel.

4. If your heater has a wick burner, be sure the wick is even and clean. Worn or faulty wicks cause wasteful, smudgy burning, as well as unpleasant odors. Wicks can easily be replaced by the householder.

5. Stoves should always be level to burn properly. Check with a carpenter's spirit level and level stove by adjusting the screws on the bottoms of the legs, or by inserting wedges, if your stove doesn't have adjusting screws.

6. Often when the regular house chimney is used for an oil heater, the chimney opening is too large to make a good draft. The result is poor combustion in the heater and waste of fuel. A simple way to remedy this is to use a 6-inch stovepipe inside the chimney. Because the pipe is smaller and surrounded by air space and the gases going up the chimney stay hot longer, the contrast of their temperature with the outside air is greater, and since that's one of the things that makes good drafts, the fire burns better.

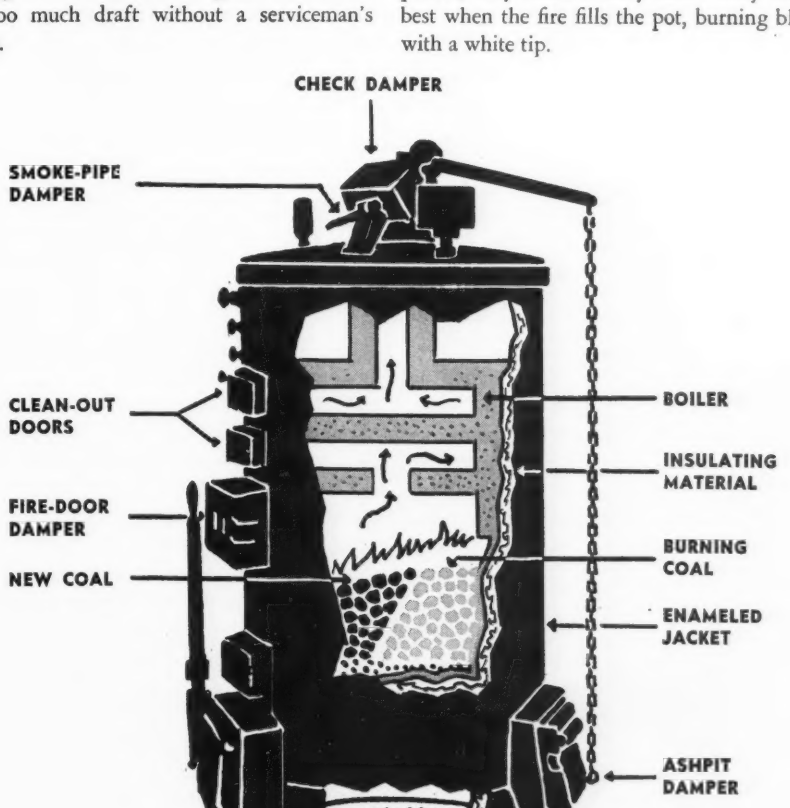
7. Checking the flue draft in heaters is often an important way to save fuel. When there is too little draft, the fire will cause so much smoke and soot that you can't help noticing it. It is hard to recognize when there is too much draft without a serviceman's help.

8. If your heater has a smoke pipe and draft regulator, set the regulator to the lowest setting which will produce a clean flame. Too much draft cools the fire and wastes fuel.

9. Never set an oil burner too low or too high. Setting it too high makes the soot and smoke you get from incomplete combustion. Setting it too low will fail to heat the combustion parts and they, in turn, will cool the flame so that all the oil won't burn. A fire set too low is smelly and dirty in addition to being wasteful.

10. The fire in an oil range or heater with perforated metal cylinder burners (sleeve-type burners) should be blue with no white or red showing. Fire like this makes the metal cylinders cherry-red. When turned very much higher the fire will burn with an irregular, smoky, yellow flame. Householders can often use one burner only, but sometimes they require more heat than one burner will give at its maximum rate. In this case 2 burners are used. Using 2 burners at moderate fire is more economical than burning one at very high fire.

11. Pot type oil-burning stoves can be regulated through a wide burning range. However, when turned very low for a continuous period, they make a dirty fire. They burn best when the fire fills the pot, burning blue with a white tip.



Learn how to work these parts of a coal furnace

Cut kitchen wastes

Gas and Electric Refrigerators

1. Be sure your refrigerator is properly placed in your kitchen, away from the stove, radiators, south windows, and in a position where heat from inside of cabinet can escape into the room. The back of the cabinet should be at least 2½ inches from the wall, and there should be a space of at least 6 inches, better 12 inches, above the cabinet.

2. Don't overcrowd your refrigerator. Place the food on the shelves so that there's room for air to circulate around it. Put the things that need the lowest temperature, like milk and meat, in the coldest part of the refrigerator. Usually this is the space just below the freezing unit and on the shelves directly beside and on a level with the bottom of the freezing unit. Use a thermometer to find out if this is true of your refrigerator.

3. Never put hot food or hot dishes in the refrigerator. Wait until they're room temperature.

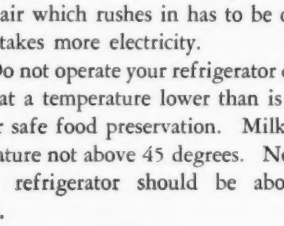
4. Don't waste space or refrigeration by keeping foods in the refrigerator that don't need to be kept cold to preserve them, like pickles, jelly, vegetable shortening, unopened cans.

5. Only highly perishable fruits and vegetables need be stored in refrigerators. They should be kept covered to avoid loss of moisture. Remove outer wrappings from meats, put on a plate, and cover loosely with waxed paper.

6. Put food in as small containers as possible. You waste refrigeration by chilling larger bowls than are necessary, and waste space besides. Shaped, covered refrigerator dishes utilize space to best advantage.

7. Don't open refrigerator door any longer or any oftener than absolutely necessary. Warm air which rushes in has to be cooled, which takes more electricity.

8. Do not operate your refrigerator continuously at a temperature lower than is necessary for safe food preservation. Milk needs temperature not above 45 degrees. No place in the refrigerator should be above 50 degrees.



9. *Never* forget to reset your temperature control to normal after you have done quick freezing.

10. Wipe up all spilled foods in the cabinet immediately. Acid foods if not removed are apt to destroy the glaze of a porcelain enamel surface.

11. Use slightly warm soda water to wash the inside of your refrigerator and don't fail to wash both the inside and the outside of the freezing unit. The best time to do it is when you're defrosting the refrigerator.

12. Wash the outside of a refrigerator with mild soap and water, or use a cleaning agent that isn't abrasive.

13. Rubber dividers in ice trays should be washed in lukewarm water, never scalded.

14. Keep the coils or fins of the refrigerating mechanism in the motor compartment clean, too. You can use either a stiff brush or the hand attachment of your vacuum cleaner.

15. Defrost the cooling unit before the ice on it is ¼-inch thick.

16. The motor of an electric refrigerator should do its job operating about one-third of the time, under average temperature conditions. In very hot weather it may operate more. If it runs more than this, have it checked by a serviceman. It may need only minor repairs.

17. If the motor runs too much, it may be because the insulation has deteriorated. Since it is possible to have cabinets reinsulated and properly sealed you might consult a reliable dealer for recommendations before you decide you must get a new refrigerator.

18. Be sure the rubber gasket around the door of the cabinet fits tightly. An easy way to test this is to close a new dollar bill in the door. If you can pull it out easily when the door is shut, there is too much leakage around the door edges; the door may need adjusting or the rubber should be replaced.

19. Follow manufacturer's directions for oiling the motor.

20. Don't use a sharp instrument to remove ice trays. You may puncture the refrigerating coil or the tray.

Gas and Electric Ranges

1. Avoid spilling cold water or food on the hot porcelain enamel surface of a range; it may cause checking of the enamel. For the same reason, wait until the enamel has cooled before wiping it with a damp cloth.

2. Always wipe up at once any acid spilled on the enamel surface of your stove. Though range tops are usually finished in acid-resistant porcelain enamel, acid may discolor them.

3. Wash the outside of your stove with mild soap and water. Never use a coarse abrasive on it. Use scouring powder or fine steel wool to clean the oven and broiler.

Gas

1. See that all burners are properly adjusted to burn with a clear blue flame at the right height. Ask the gas company to adjust them. A yellow flame means you're wasting fuel.

2. Turn the flame to its maximum height until food reaches the boiling point, then reduce it just so it will maintain a cooking temperature.

3. Turn off gas before, instead of after, removing utensils from burners.

4. Don't leave a burner lighted just because you intend to use it again in a few minutes.

5. Don't use a giant burner when the simmer burner will do.

6. If burners get clogged with spilled food, clean them out with a pin. Burners should be removed and washed with a strong soap when they become greasy.

Electric

1. Operate the heating unit on high only to start the cooking, then lower the heat. Water is just as hot when it boils gently as when it boils vigorously. Don't waste electricity by boiling water with the unit at maximum heat.

2. Whenever possible turn off the current and finish cooking on heat stored in the unit. Experiment to find out how to manage this.

3. Use the standard-size unit on your range instead of the large one as often as you can to save on electricity.

4. Use the 8-inch unit for large frying pans, kettles, and saucepans.

5. When you've spilled food on the open coils of your electric range, don't try to wash it off. Let it char and brush off with a soft brush. Scour metal ring around unit with fine steel wool or a fine scouring powder.

6. Never use a stiff brush or sharp instrument to clean open coils of an electric range.

Pots and Pans

1. Don't use strongly alkaline soaps and cleaning powders on aluminum pots and pans. They'll slowly eat the aluminum away by chemical action. Remove stains with steel wool or a fine abrasive. When scouring fails, boil some acid solution such as vinegar and water in the stained pan.

2. Never use a coarse abrasive on enamelware. A mildly alkaline cleaning powder won't harm enamelware. Sometimes boiling a weak solution of soda and water in a pan will remove burnt-on food that milder treatment didn't affect.

3. Tinware should never be scoured. You'll only wear away the thin coating of tin, exposing the metal base to rust. Dry tin pans carefully, too, for the same reason.

4. Scour cast iron with steel wool and use a strong alkaline soap to remove grease. To avoid rust on cast-iron skillets and pots, always dry them thoroughly, and rub them with mineral oil if they're to be stored any length of time.

5. Earthenware and glass cooking dishes should be scoured with a fine abrasive, washed with strongly alkaline soap to remove grease.

6. Galvanized buckets or garbage pails can be safely scoured with coarse abrasives.

Appliances

1. Never immerse the heating unit of *any* electric cooking appliance in water.

2. Never allow crumbs to remain on the heating coils of your toaster. Brush them away with a *soft* brush or shake the toaster gently to remove them. A stiff brush might injure fine wires in heating coils of better quality toasters.

3. Don't give an electric mixer too much work to do by putting too much or too stiff a mixture in the bowl. If the motor seems to be slowing down while you're mixing something, reduce the quantity or thin the mixture in the bowl rather than overwork the motor.

4. Follow the manufacturer's directions for oiling the motor of an electric mixer.

5. Don't fill percolator so full that it overflows. The liquid may injure the heating element and may even cause a short circuit.

Saving Cooking Heat

1. Do not heat a whole teakettle of water when you need only 2 cups.

2. Heating water in the utensil in which it is to be used saves energy. Always cover the container in which water is heated.

3. Remove sediment that forms in tea kettle.

4. Cook all vegetables in the smallest possible quantity of water, just enough to keep them from sticking. It saves vitamins and minerals, as well as energy.

5. Use flat-bottom pans that are the same size or slightly larger than the heating unit. Pans that are too small waste heat. When pans are so large that they extend over the porcelain enamel surface on electric ranges, their heat may cause the enamel to check.

6. Don't scrub the bottoms of your pans until they shine. A dull surface will absorb more heat than a bright shiny one.

7. Use pans with tightly fitted covers to conserve heat.

8. Preheating the oven for short baking processes, such as biscuits and muffins, is expensive. When using the oven, plan to do as many baking and oven-cooking operations as possible.

9. Have food ready when the oven is at the right temperature.

10. Place pans in alternate positions on the oven racks in order to provide for the best circulation of heat and the minimum consumption of energy.

11. Do not waste heat by looking too often at the food in the oven. Use a time and temperature chart, and open the oven door as little as possible.

12. Don't use the oven to heat the kitchen unless you have to.

13. In areas where Defense power needs are great and electric generating capacity is limited, do as much cooking as you can during non-peak-hour-load hours. Peak loads come around 5:00 to 6:00 o'clock in the evening, when lights go on in homes, offices, and factories, dinner preparations begin, and people homeward bound begin to pack into transportation systems.

Safe wiring saves power

Electric Wiring and Lighting

1. First rule for wiring safety and conservation is: Never have any exposed wiring anywhere. That means replacing at once any broken or cracked switch plates or outlet plates, keeping whole ones tightly screwed in place, and never using frayed or broken extension cords. Short circuits that cause disastrous fires are the penalty for violation of this rule.

2. Most light bulbs have a life of from 1,000 to 3,000 hours—you make them last longer and save electricity, too, if you turn them out when they're not needed.

3. Keep light bulbs, reflecting bowls, and shades clean. A film of dust reduces their efficiency just as soot on the chimney cuts down the light from an oil lamp. Don't immerse light bulbs in water when you clean them—it's best not to get the base of the bulb wet. Wipe them with a damp cloth instead.

4. For economy and long life use good quality electric light bulbs of the right size for your needs. A 100-watt bulb gives more light, costs less to buy, and less to operate, than two 60-watt bulbs. Buy lamps with correct voltage rating. Your power company or co-op will check the voltage for you.

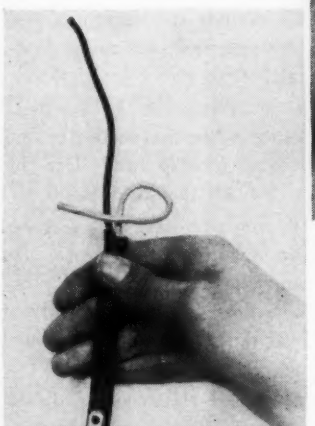
5. Don't run lamp cords under the rug. They're a fire hazard there and wear out more quickly from being walked on.

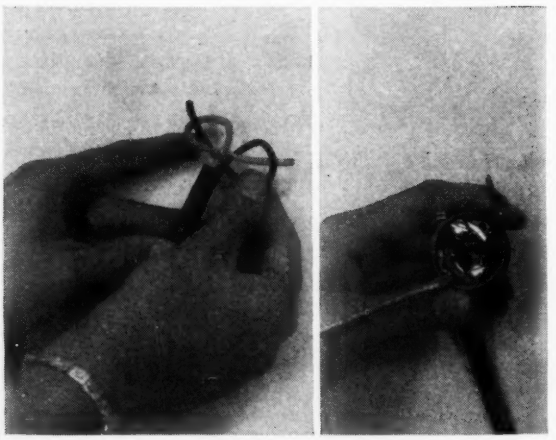
6. Never jerk a cap from a convenience outlet by the cord. Yanking the cord will pull the wires loose from the plug cap in no time.

7. Never try to push loosened wires back into a plug cap. If they've jerked loose, take the plug apart, trim frayed ends of wires and rewind them around the little screws in the plug. Always wrap the frayed insulation with adhesive tape or friction tape for safety.

8. To repair a break in extension cord, strip the insulation from the wires for a few inches on either side of the break, twist the ends together and solder, then tape with a rubber splicing compound and wind with friction tape. Never put 2 splices side by side when repairing a wire. Offset them a little instead.

9. *Always* be sure to turn off all electricity at the main switch before you try to check or repair outlets or lights. Disconnect cords before you attempt to work on them.



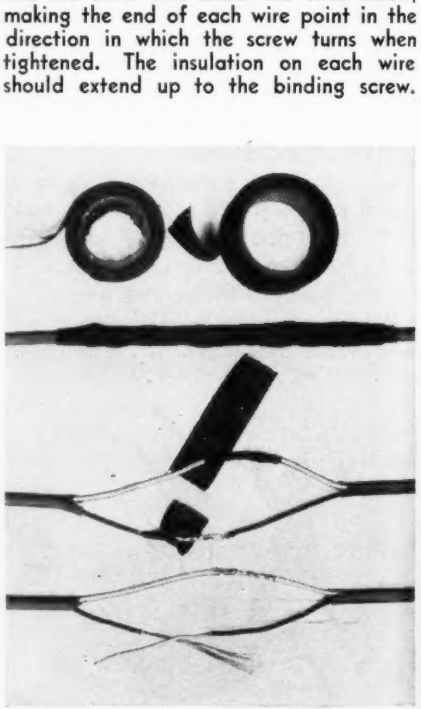


WHEN THE PLUG CAP (look at the left picture) is pulled loose from the wires—you can replace it this way: (1) Push the cord through the center hole in the plug cap. Then remove about 3½ inches of outer insulation from the wires. Now, bend one wire into a loop, as in the picture. (2) Bend the other wire into a loop. Now, stick the ends of each wire through the loop of the opposite wire. Draw the knot tight, and pull the cap tight against the knot as it sinks into the recess of the cap. (3) Cut each wire so there is about 1¼ inches extending beyond the knot. Bare about ½ inch of wire, twist each exposed wire and fasten one wire under one binding screw, and the other wire under the other screw, making the end of each wire point in the direction in which the screw turns when tightened. The insulation on each wire should extend up to the binding screw.

10. Unless you're very sure of your own ability as a repairman, it's best to have an electrician do these jobs. The money you save by doing them yourself can't be compared with the cost of a fire or a serious or even fatal shock caused by faulty electrical connections.

11. Avoid handling electrical appliances or equipment with wet hands, or near water, or in the bathroom or basement where you may be standing on a wet surface.

12. Avoid wetting an extension cord, even the rubber-covered kind. In time the rubber will absorb water. Gasoline and petroleum products will also deteriorate rubber insulation; keep them away from cords and connections that are rubber insulated.



YOU CAN REPAIR a break in an extension cord this way: Strip insulation from the wires on either side of the break. Offset the splices about 1½ inches. Twist the wires together, then solder. Wrap each wire with rubber splicing compound, then tape the breaks with friction tape.

Slow down wear from dust and dirt

Vacuum Cleaners

1. Sharp bits of glass, pins, or tacks may damage your vacuum cleaner. Pick them up before you run your vacuum cleaner over the rug or floor.

2. Empty the dirt bag in your vacuum cleaner at least once a week. Keep brush free of threads and hairs.

3. Keep the cord out of the path of the machine. Running the machine over the cord will injure the insulation.

4. Follow the manufacturer's instructions about oiling your cleaner. Some have hermetically sealed motors you never oil; others need regular oiling.

Brushes, Brooms, and Mops

1. Hang brooms and brushes when they're not in use. Never stand a broom on the bristles.

2. Never put brooms, brushes, or mops away dirty. Clean mops by washing in warm, soapy water, then rinsing. Brooms and brushes should be dipped up and down in clean warm water. If they're very dirty, add 1 tablespoon of ammonia to the water.

3. Clean and empty the carpet sweeper after each use. Wipe the brush occasionally with dry cleaning fluid to remove wax and oil; clip and remove hairs and strings from the brush regularly.

4. Oil the sweeper parts every month. When not in use let the sweeper stand on one side or hang by the handle.

Care of Walls and Floors

1. Dirty flat-painted or varnished surfaces should be washed gently with mild soap, a small portion at a time, rinsed with clear water, and wiped dry. Never try to wash calcimined or whitewashed walls.

2. Never use soap on enamel paint, as soap dulls the gloss. Wash with clear hot water to which 1 teaspoon of soda has been added for each gallon of water.

3. Never use an oiled mop on linoleum, as the oil will cause the linoleum to disintegrate. Always wipe up water spilled on it immediately, as water causes the linoleum to expand and also to separate from the burlap back. Wax also preserves the finish of varnished or shellacked floors.

4. Before you try to wash "washable" wall papers, test a small inconspicuous spot to see that the colors will not run. If they don't, use a sponge squeezed out of clear lukewarm water on a thin wall paper. On a heavy paper a suds of mild pure soap may be used. Rub lightly and use as little water as possible to avoid soaking the paper from the wall. Wash from floor upward. On nonwashable papers, rubber-like wallpaper cleaners are safest.

5. Linoleum floors should be kept waxed to preserve their surface.

6. Don't varnish inlaid linoleum. It may discolor and cause cracking.

Care of Rugs and Carpets

1. Dirt embedded in rugs and carpets wears them out quickly. Going over the rug with the vacuum cleaner for a short period of time 2 or 3 times a week is better than using it once a week for a longer period. To use a vacuum cleaner efficiently, adjust nozzle at proper height from rug, follow manufacturer's directions. If yours is a rotary brush-type cleaner, adjust so bristle tips touch rug.

2. Don't beat rugs or carpets, and don't shake small ones. Such treatment breaks the fibers in the back of the rug.

3. Remove spots from rugs as soon as possible after they're made. Use one of the approved methods for removing the particular kind of stain you have to deal with. (See page 14 for "Stain Removal from Fabrics.")

4. Some rugs can be shampooed, but only with care. Make a thick suds with a little water. After you've tested it on a small corner to be sure the colors of the rug are fast, spread the lather on a small part of the rug at a time with a soft cloth or brush, using a circular motion. Scrape the lather off with a dull knife or spatula, then wipe up the remaining suds with a dry cloth. Rinse several times with a cloth or sponge, but be careful *never* to soak the rug. Always keep the back of the rug dry. Wipe with a dry cloth, brushing threads in the original direction.

5. Send valuable rugs to a reliable rug cleaning expert.

6. Never lay a rug on a rough uneven surface; it will cause the rug to wear out very quickly.

7. A pad, or even newspapers, placed under a rug will lengthen its life.

Care of Furniture

1. Treat varnished, shellacked, or lacquered wood furniture as you do floors. Wash it with neutral soap and very little water, rinse and dry. Then wax or polish with furniture polish to preserve the finish.

2. Remove stains from upholstered furniture as soon as possible after they're made.

Empty every week

Dust walls regularly

Take care if you shampoo rugs

Clean things last longer

Mechanical Washing Machines

1. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the size of load and the most efficient washing period. Too large a washing load overtaxes the motor; too long a washing period wastes energy.

2. Keep the washer clean. Rinse carefully after each use. Dry the tub if it is metal. Keep a little clean water in a wooden tub between usings.

3. Always release the pressure on the rolls of the wringer when you've finished using it. Wipe the rolls with a damp cloth after each use. If they're stained, wash them off with kerosene, then with soapy water immediately; rinse and dry.

4. Oil the motor according to manufacturer's directions.

5. Do not start motor with washer or wringer in gear.

Electric Irons

1. Avoid dropping your iron. The jar may injure some of the fine electrical connections in the heating unit.

2. In some electric irons, heating coils which burn out may be replaced or repaired by a serviceman.

3. Always turn off your iron when you leave the room, even for a minute. It's safest.

4. Never detach the cord from your iron while the current is on. Instead pull the plug from the appliance outlet first, to avoid pitting the terminal connections in the iron and in the iron plug. Pitting results in poor contact in the iron plug and eventually makes replacement of the connector necessary.

5. Don't plug your iron into an electric light socket. Lighting fixtures are not designed to carry the load needed by an iron. The wires carrying current to the light socket are frequently too small and may become excessively hot; the appliance heats slowly, and electricity is wasted. This applies to other electrical appliances, too. Use your convenience outlets for all of them.

6. Don't let the electric cords for your iron or for other electrical appliances get knotted or twisted. When they're not in use, hang them up by one end, or over two adjoining hooks. Hanging cords over a single nail or hook isn't a good plan because the wires may break at the point where the cord passes over the nail in a sharp bend.

Ironing Boards

1. Keep the ironing board well padded and firmly mounted. Keep the cover clean.

2. A simple fireproofing treatment for the cover will add protection against fire. You can find out how from the U. S. Department of Agriculture bulletin on "Fireproofing Fabrics." (See page 14.)

It Pays To Clean With Care

1. Dirt wears things out, whether they're fabric, wood, plaster, leather, fur—whatever they are. Clean things before they get too dirty. Waiting until they're very dirty means added rubbing and scrubbing that wears things out as much as the dirt ground into them in the first place.

2. Dry cleaning should not be done at home with inflammable solutions. The fire risk is too great.

3. Separate different fabrics that need different treatment. Don't put silks, wools, and rayons into hot, soapy water with the sheets and linens.

4. If laundering and cleaning instructions come with materials or garments, be sure to save them and follow carefully. If there are no laundering hints, consult U. S. Department of Agriculture's, "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering" (see page 14).

5. Mend fabrics and remove spots before laundering. Learn how to mend neatly. Don't mend or darn by pulling the torn ends together. The mends are sure to pull out and the tears or worn spots will grow larger with wear.

6. White cottons can be soaked in soapy water overnight and washed in very hot water. Cottons and linens that aren't colorfast shouldn't be soaked for more than a few minutes and should be washed in warm, not too hot, water with mild soap, then dried quickly. Thorough rinsing is important to correct laundering of all fabrics.

7. Silks, rayons, and woolens should be washed with mild soap in lukewarm water.

8. Woolens should always be kept at the same temperature during washing and rinsing. They should be dried flat in a warm place away from sun and radiators.

9. Clean clothesline off with damp cloth before hanging clothes.

10. Rayons and silks should be ironed with a moderately hot iron.

11. Woolens should be pressed under a damp cloth.

12. Knitted anticles should never be rubbed. Wash by squeezing soapsuds through the material to prevent stretching or shrinking.

13. Blankets should be washed like all other woolens. Use lukewarm water with plenty of mild soapsuds. Never rub, but dip up and down in suds. Squeeze gently to remove water after each suds. Rinse 2 or 3 times in water of the same temperature. Blankets can be mothproofed by adding a mothproofing compound to the last rinse water, according to instructions on the box. To dry, hang blanket lengthwise over a clean clothesline with half on each side. Blankets like all woolens should not hang in direct sunlight. Clothespins stretch the edges. Reverse blanket several times after it is partially dry, and from time to time straighten the edges and squeeze out water as it collects at edges. When drying indoors, hang away

from heat. Fluff up blanket when it is dry with a wool or other clean soft brush, brushing against the nap.

14. Draperies with linings should be dry cleaned unless both outside and lining are preshrunk and colorfast to washing. When washable, launder according to directions for the fabric.

15. Glass curtains are usually made of cotton or rayon. Be sure that they are washable before you attempt to launder them at home. Shake out as much dirt as possible before washing. Handle carefully, and if rayon, follow general directions for washing rayon fabrics.

Banish spots to save

Spots in General

1. Analyze the stain. A complex stain may require the use of 2 or more cleaning agents.

2. Remove stain when it is fresh.

3. Use cleaning agents that will not injure materials.

4. Experiment with a cleaning agent on unexposed portions of material first.

5. Use agents sparingly, work rapidly. For more tips, check with "Stain Removal From Fabrics" (see page 14).

6. Carbon tetrachloride should always be used out-of-doors or in a very well ventilated room.

Blood

Always use cold water on bloodstains first.

Washable cotton and linens: Soak in cold, wash in hot water.

Delicate fabrics: Sponge with cold or lukewarm water. To remove last traces of bloodstains, sponge with hydrogen peroxide to which a few drops of ammonia have been added. Rinse well.

Heavy materials (blankets, etc.): Make a paste of raw starch and cold water. Apply to stain and brush off when dry. Repeat if necessary.

Chewing Gum

Rub spot with ice. Then scrape hardened gum out of the fabric. Or treat with carbon tetrachloride.

Coffee

Remove stains while fresh. It's much easier. Washable cotton and linens: Pour boiling water on stain from a height of 2 or 3 feet. Old stains may be bleached with hydrogen peroxide solution. Stretch stained fabric over bowl of warm water and apply bleaching agent. Rinse well.

Nonwashable materials: Apply glycerine and rub lightly between the hands. Let stand a half hour and rinse well.

If it is a cream-coffee stain, use carbon tetrachloride or other grease solvent first.

Egg

Cold water first. (Hot water hardens egg stain, making it difficult to remove.)

Washable colorfast materials: Follow cold rinse by washing in hot water.

Other fabrics: Sponge with cold water. Allow stain to dry, then apply grease solvent, using pad of soft cloth underneath.

Cooked Fruits and Berries

Most stains from cooked fruits disappear with ordinary laundering.

Washable colorfast materials: Fresh stains—boiling water from a height.

Delicate fabrics: Sponge with warm water.

Fresh Fruits and Berries

Washable cotton and linen:

1. Stretch fabric over bowl and pour boiling water from a height.

2. Moisten stain with lemon juice. Put in bright sunlight.

3. Sprinkle powdered sodium perborate on the dampened area and let stand an hour. Rinse well.

Silk and wool and colored fabrics: Sponge the stain well with cool water, then saturate the dampened area with glycerine.

Grease and Oils

Always scrape off as much grease as possible from stained material then use one of three methods, depending on nature of fabric.

Washable materials: Warm water and soap. Other methods: Absorbents are effective only on oil and grease spots that are not mixed with dirt or metal. They are convenient to use on rugs and other heavy materials.

Delicate fabrics:

1. To remove a spot from light-colored unwashable material, cover with a paste made of white absorbent powder and a solvent.

2. Place a pad of soft cloth underneath and sponge with carbon tetrachloride or other grease solvent. Use small quantities of solvent at a time and rub spot with clean cloth until thoroughly dry to prevent ring from forming.

Ink

Chemical composition of inks vary. Some are impossible to remove.

Marking Ink (silver nitrate type which must be exposed to sun or ironed before articles which are marked with them are washed): For white cotton and linen—Apply Javelle water and if a brown stain remains remove it with vinegar or lemon juice.

Printing Ink:

Washable materials: First rub lard or white vaseline thoroughly into stained fibers and then use soap and water.

Delicate fabrics: Soak for a few minutes in turpentine, sponge out with wood alcohol diluted with equal amount of water. (Turpentine and alcohol may affect some dyes. Try them first on sample or unexposed part of garment.)

Writing Ink:

There are various methods for removing ink stains. Start with the simplest and one the least likely to injure a fabric.

Absorbent: For fresh stains, work absorbent, such as cornstarch or talcum powder around with blunt instrument. Renew absorbent when it becomes soiled. When ink no longer comes up with dry absorbent, apply a paste of absorbent and water.

Soap and Water: Often satisfactory, if material is washable.

Glycerine: If fabric is washable, use equal parts of glycerine and water and apply as long as ink comes out.

Oxalic Acid: Soak stains for a few seconds in a saturated solution of oxalic acid, rinse in clear water and then in water to which a few drops of concentrated ammonia have been added.

Javelle Water: On white cotton and linen only.

Commercial Ink Removers: Follow directions carefully and after treatment rinse material thoroughly.

Sodium Perborate: Effective in removing some red ink stains. Soak stain for one or two days if necessary in cold saturated solution.

Save Wool From Moths

1. Dry cleaning or washing in a strong solution of neutral soap kills all forms of moths, but it doesn't make anything moth resistant. Fabrics thoroughly cleaned can be protected by wrapping immediately in well-

sealed and unbroken paper or cardboard box provided all openings are sealed tight. Gummed paper stripping or Scotch tape can be used for sealing.

2. For extra protection, add a small amount of flake naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene to the fabrics before wrapping to destroy any moths which might have been in the material.

3. Woolen clothing not packed away during the summer should be brushed and sunned frequently.

4. Tight chests, trunks, and boxes will protect clothing from moths if one pound of naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene flakes are sprinkled between folds of material and all openings are sealed tight.

5. Most cedar-lined house closets and cedarized bags are no protection unless all openings are sealed tight and articles placed in them are entirely free of infestation. These containers do not kill moths.

6. Upholstered furniture covered in materials woven with wool or other animal hair stands less chance of being infested if it is kept clean and brushed frequently. The same thing applies to rugs. Thorough housecleaning destroys many larvae which develop from eggs laid in cracks and crevices where wool lint and hair have collected.

7. During the summer, slip covers on upholstered furniture should be removed frequently and the furniture, cleaned, to help check moth damage. If moth larvae are feeding beneath the covers brushing does no good and the furniture should be fumigated or sprayed heavily.

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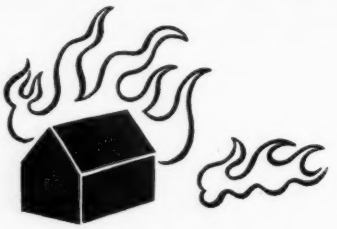
Sewing Machines

1. Check up on your sewing machine periodically. It needs regular cleaning and oiling to keep it working efficiently.

2. To clean a neglected sewing machine, use a brush and kerosene except on the motor. Brush every bit of dirt and hardened grease and oil from all moving parts. See that all moving parts are free to move and turn easily. After cleaning, dry the machine as well as possible with a lintless cloth and then allow it to stand in a warm dry place until any remaining kerosene has evaporated. Oil as directed in the instruction book and allow the machine to stand overnight before using.

3. Never clean the electric motor with kerosene. Use only a dry dustless cloth. Use the quality of oil recommended by the manufacturer.

Protect against fire



1. Clean the soot from your chimney once a year, preferably in summer.

2. Defective flues and chimney cracks invite fires. Test for chimney leaks by building a small smoky fire in furnace, stove, or fireplace, and covering top of chimney with damp, heavy cloth. If smoke escapes through walls or chimney, leaks are present. Stop them for safety's sake and fuel burning efficiency.

3. Place your stove or furnace a safe distance, at least 3 feet, from frame walls or woodwork, or cover the wall or woodwork with sheets of metal or asbestos.

4. Boilers and furnaces should be set on foundations that won't burn.

5. Wooden floors under stoves should be protected with asbestos board covered with sheet metal.

6. Don't have a smoke pipe pass through wood or plaster partition if you can help it. If it must, protect it with a ventilating thimble.

7. Clean your stove pipes from time to time to remove soot.

8. Always have an effective screen before an open fireplace when not sitting in front of it.

9. Use your oil stove or gasoline stove with care; also, your oil lamps. Never set them down on unsteady surfaces, and carry them about as little as possible. Never fill lamps, stoves, lanterns, or heaters while they are burning.

10. Don't use kerosene to start a fire.

11. Don't use gasoline, benzene, or naphtha for home cleaning.

12. Never keep more than one gallon of gasoline in the house, and then only in a safety can or sealed container, painted red.

13. Small quantities of kerosene should be kept in different shaped cans from gasoline to avoid confusion.

14. Electric wiring should meet the requirements of the National Electrical Code. It should always be done by a competent licensed electrician.

15. Be careful not to overload circuits. Use fuses of the correct amperage. Never put a coin behind a broken fuse. It may damage both equipment and wiring.

16. Keep your home free of rubbish. Burn oily or painty waste or rags or keep them in metal containers.

17. Don't pile manure against buildings.

18. Be prepared to fight a fire with chemical fire extinguisher if possible.

19. Use fire-resistant roofing on your house.

20. Be sure every lighted match is put out before you throw it away. Keep matches away from children. Put out cigarettes before you throw them away.

21. Never throw supposedly dead matches into the wastepaper basket; keep a metal or glass container handy for used matches.

22. Never dump fresh ashes from the stove or furnace near the house. Provide a metal can for them. Even though they appear dead there may be a live coal hidden in their midst.

23. If you live in the country, protect your home against lightning with properly installed and well-maintained lightning rods.

24. Never burn candles on Christmas trees.

25. A second stairway or a window or door opening on a porch roof has saved many a life in case of fire.

26. Cut off your cellar stairs with a fire-resistant door to lessen the danger of fire spreading to the rest of the house.

27. Make curtains near the stove, fireproof in the easy way recommended by Department of Agriculture experts. (See "Fireproofing Fabrics," page 14.)

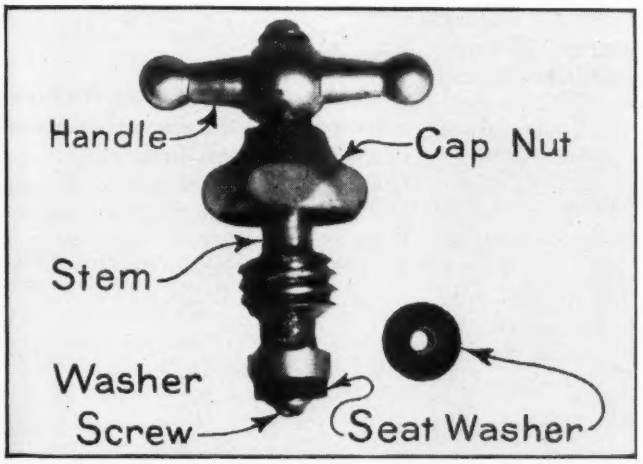
28. Firestops of incombustible material supported on metal strips placed between the studs in the cellar will prevent many a cellar fire from spreading to the rest of the house.

Stop that leak

1. Repair leaky faucets at once. Change seat washers yourself. (See figure below.) First, turn off the water supply, either at the valve under the basin or in the cellar. Now unscrew the cap nut on top of the faucet (you'll have to use a monkey wrench to loosen the cap nut, so use a cloth to save scratching the nut). Then unscrew the handle from the faucet; the stem will come with it. On the bottom of the stem you will see that the washer is held on by a screw. Remove the screw, and the washer can be taken off. Be careful not to damage the slot in the screw-head. Screw on a new washer (rubber for hot water, fiber or leather for cold water.)

Replace the stem and handle, screwing it down in place. Then screw on the cap nut. Now turn on the water supply. If the threads holding the washer in place are worn out, special repair washers can be used.

2. If water squirts from the top of the faucet between the cap nut and handle, shut the faucet tight. Unscrew the cap nut as in No. 1, then remove the handle which is screwed to the stem. Slip on a top washer which is somewhat like the bottom washer, or wrap a piece of soft cord around the stem. Screw back the cap nut and then the handle.



Typical faucet ↑ parts

3. If water from the tank leaks into the toilet continuously it is generally a sign that the flush valve does not close the outlet. (See figure to right.) Lift off the lid of the tank, and look for a rubber ball that is screwed into a thin rod, called the "lift wire." Unscrew the ball and replace with a new one. If the new ball doesn't stop the leak, it may be necessary to turn a small screw part way up the overflow tube. Turn it a little one way or the other so as to make the ball fall directly over the outlet, or "seat," in the bottom of the tank.

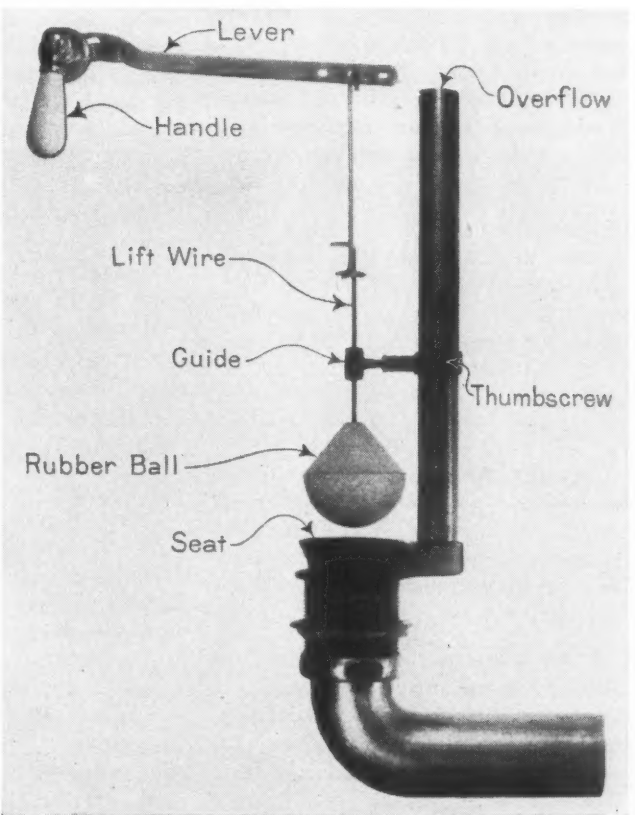
4. Stop small leaks in water pipes and tanks temporarily by putting a piece of leather or rubber over the leak, hammering a piece of sheet metal to fit over it and securing both by a clamp which fastens around it. The pipe clamps can be bought at a hardware or 10-cent store, or the patch can be held in place by wrapping tightly with wire.

5. Newspapers, rags, and garbage will clog drains and should never be put down toilets. Use soapy water and brush to clean water closets, and commercial cleaning preparations, if bowl is stained.

6. Greases and fats should not be poured down the sink or drain. Clean drains about twice a year by flushing with very hot water to soften grease, pour in a little potash lye; flush again with boiling water in half hour; repeat if necessary. If your pipes are made of lead, you'd better use caustic soda instead of the potash solution since potash may "eat" lead.

7. To clean out the clogged drain of a sink when it is stuck with slime or grease and can't be cleaned with the treatment in No. 6, thrust a stiff wire back and forth into the pipe.

8. Protect your plumbing from frost. Never start furnaces or heaters if you think any pipes might be frozen. Drain tanks, pipes, and traps in unoccupied houses during cold weather. Drain traps by unscrewing cleanout, or siphon out the water with rubber tube if there is no cleanout. Traps should be filled with kerosene, salt water, or other anti-freezing liquid. To drain water pipes, close stop and waste cock at the cellar wall. Then open highest fixture faucet in house and lowest one so water runs off into house drain. To thaw frozen pipes begin from the direction of the faucet, with the faucet open so water can flow out as pipe thaws. On waste and sewer pipes, work so the water can drain off as it melts. Cloths wrung out in scalding hot water wrapped around a frozen pipe are helpful. Hot water is also useful in thawing frozen pipes. Sometimes a little lye is put in a frozen drain first because it generates some heat. Lye is caustic, and should be kept away from children.



Typical toilet tank parts →

Facts are weapons against waste

Here's where you'll find more

Cleaning

HOUSE-CLEANING MANAGEMENT AND METHODS, Bureau of Home Economics, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1834. 1940, pp. 22. Address: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. Fully outlines the selection and care of cleaning equipment and supplies and the methods to be followed for each of the cleaning jobs in the home.

ABC's OF HOUSE CLEANING, prepared by the Bureau of Home Economics and issued by the U. S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency. Misc. 2714–1. 1941, pp. 88. Address: U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. Free. Deals with cleaning procedures, room by room, care of equipment, laundering, and stain removal.

THE ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER: Points to Look For in Selecting. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics. No. 834. 1940, pp. 5, mimeo. Address: Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C. Free. Contains material on the use and care of the vacuum cleaner as well as buying information.

FINISHING YOUR FLOORS AND CLEANING YOUR WALLS, Consumers' Guide Separate No. 37. Address: Consumers' Counsel, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. Describes cleaning methods for walls and floors.

STAIN REMOVAL FROM FABRICS: Home Methods. Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers' Bulletin 1474. 1926, pp. 30. Address: Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free.

Electric Lighting and Wiring

ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR THE FARMSTEAD, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1838. 1940, pp. 61. Address: Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. Gives information on planning lighting for the home, remodeling old lighting installations, the upkeep of lamps and bulbs, and the cost of light.

ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT IN THE HOME: Its Care and Repair, by Albert W. Krewatch, Bulletin No. 76. 1936, pp. 23. Address: University of Maryland Extension Service, College Park, Md. Free. Tells how to locate trouble in electrical equipment and wiring, and describes simple, safe repairs that can be made at home, and contains suggestions on proper care of electrical appliances.

Fire Prevention

FIRE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE FARM, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1643. 1939, pp. 29. Address: Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. This bulletin tells how to avoid fire hazards in the home and on the farm. Suggestions for home fire-fighting equipment are included.

FIREPROOFING FABRICS. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1786. 1937, revised 1938, pp. 9. Address: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. Gives simple method for fireproofing fabrics at home.

Food Preservation and Preparation

POINTS TO LOOK FOR IN SELECTING THE GAS RANGE. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics. No. 830. 1940, pp. 9. Address: Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C. Free. Information on use of gas range as well as buying features.

THE ELECTRIC RANGE: Points to Look for in Selecting. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics. No. 836. 1940, pp. 7. Address: Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C. Free. Information on use of electric range included in addition to buying points.

THE HOUSEHOLD REFRIGERATOR: Points to Look For in Selecting. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics. No. 835. 1940, pp. 6. Address: Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C. Free. Contains instruction on care of refrigerator in addition to buying points.

Heating

HEATING THE FARM HOME, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1698, by A. H. Senner, Washington, D. C. February, 1933, pp. 17, illustrated. Address: Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. Suitability of different types of heating systems for varying sized homes, how to install them, and how to operate them for most efficient fuel use.

Laundry

METHODS AND EQUIPMENT FOR HOME LAUNDERING. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics. Farmers' Bulletin 1497. Revised edition, 1940, pp. 44. Address: Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C. Free. Considers in detail the best methods to be followed for laundering various fabrics.

ELECTRIC IRONS: Points to Consider Before Selecting. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics, No. 840. 1940, pp. 7. Address: Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C. Free. Discusses care of irons as well as buying information.

Plumbing

SIMPLE PLUMBING REPAIRS IN THE HOME, by George M. Warren, Bureau of Agricultural Engineering. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1460. 1936, pp. 13. Address: Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free.

Share to save

NEIGHBORLY sharing of household things is an old story in every American community. Somebody is sick. Out comes a heating pad that a neighbor owns. Mrs. Thomas borrows Mrs. Williams' sewing machine. Mr. Roberts uses his neighbor's lawnmower, and lends his own power sprayer. These casual ways of making things more useful to more people take place all the time.

But now a national emergency, greater than the sum total of personal emergencies, makes it more than ever necessary that the possessions people already have shall do service—not just for their owners, but for the next door neighbor who needs them.

Sharing is a way to work for victory. When you share what you have with someone else you help to keep our factories and men at work for war needs.

Do you know how many vacuum cleaners, washing machines, sewing machines, there are in your block?

Do you know how many families are getting ready to buy these things or how many would be glad to delay buying, if some family would share what it has?

Do you know how sharing would make it easier for families, who can't afford to buy at any price, to get along?

Do you know how many families could afford to share in the expense of operating, upkeep, and replacement if what you have were given over to community use?

TAKE WASHING MACHINES. A SINGLE family uses its washing machine only a few hours every week. This equipment lies idle more hours than it works. If you were to share yours with your neighbors, of course it would wear out faster. But most laundry equipment is built to give much more service than is usually required of it. Furthermore, household demands on industry must ease up *now* and next year.

Of course, washing machines can't be moved around easily. If some owner is willing to share hers, she will probably have to open her laundry to her neighbors. That raises other practical problems. There's the business of working out a schedule for using the laundry. Some way must be worked out, too, for dividing the cost of the additional wear and tear on the machine, the cost of running it, of replacing it. There are water charges, too.

Adding up these costs, you arrive at a weekly or monthly amount which each member of the group should pay into a fund to pay operating bills and to replace the equipment when it wears out.

Ironing is another job that can be done most easily when equipment is shared. Irons, ironing boards, curtain stretchers and such, when shared, do a Defense job as well as a household job.

Even simpler to arrange, neighborhood sharing of garden tools, lawnmowers, and sprayers, should make new buying unnecessary by some gardeners in suburban communities.

Vacuum cleaners could move from household to household on a regular schedule, too.

When it comes to sewing machines, you might even consider setting up a central sewing center in a church basement, or at trade union headquarters, or in clubs where space is available, instead of moving the sewing machines from house to house. That way more people than just the residents of one block might be included, and the costs of using the machines might be more widely shared.

Sickroom equipment is another thing you might include in your neighborhood canvass. A list of neighborhood owners of electric heating pads, hot water bags, ice bags, hospital beds, bed pans, wheel chairs, crutches, sun lamps, bed trays, and vaporizers, would make locating them a simple task when the need arose. Sharing them means saving not only for the individual family but for the nation effort, too.

HOW ABOUT THE CARS IN YOUR BLOCK? Are they being put to any community service, or does each family who owns one use it just for itself? You could all save gas and oil and car wear by sharing the daily trip to and from work with some of your neighbors, or by going on shopping trips with some of the other housewives on the block instead of each going alone. Shared shopping trips could lead to other savings, too. When neighbors pool their purchases and buy in quantity they often make substantial savings.

Think over all the places where you might save by sharing in your neighborhood. Talk them over with your friends. See whether you can't organize a community pool of household equipment in your neighborhood. You'll help yourself and help your country if you do.

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